

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

February 26, 2013

Support Firearm Safety and Buyback Grant Act of 2013

Reducing gun violence requires a multifaceted approach. It ultimately will require programs aimed at prevention, elimination of the stigma associated with mental health treatment, gun safety education and awareness, increased background checks, and banning assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition. Gun violence strategies should also aim to reduce the prevalence of guns in the public sphere. The Firearm Safety and Buyback Grant of 2013 (H.R. 793) authored by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez would impose a 10% excise tax on all purchases of concealable firearms. The revenue from the tax would be used to create a grant program within the Department of Justice. In turn, this bill provides that local counties and cities, as well as law enforcement agencies would be eligible to apply for funding to support local firearm buyback programs.

In the wake of the Newtown, Connecticut tragedy, local jurisdictions responded with gun buyback programs, including one in the County of Los Angeles (Compton) that

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witnessed two guns turned in per minute within the first hour. Another gun buyback sponsored by the Los Angeles Police Department resulted in over 2,000 weapons voluntarily turned over.

In addition to financing gun buybacks, H.R. 793 would fund the development and implementation of anti-violence campaigns and gun safety campaigns. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), 14,675 people were wounded in an unintentional or accidental shooting in 2011. In 2010, 606 people died according to the NCIPC. States with the most guns had a mortality rate 8 times higher than states with the fewest guns as it relates to accidental shootings. Research makes clear that a gun in the home increases the risk of homicide, suicide, and accidental death. Further, the Brady Campaign reports that a gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in a completed or attempted suicide (11x), criminal assault or homicide (7x), or unintentional shooting death or injury (4x) than to be used in a self-defense shooting.

This bill would further efforts to reduce gun violence in the County and throughout the nation. It is consistent with existing law and promotes public safety by limiting the volume of guns that can easily commit mayhem on children, families, and communities even absent a malicious intent. This bill is under consideration by the United States Congress and therefore action on the bill by the Board of Supervisors is timely and appropriate.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the County's Legislative Advocates in Washington, D.C. to take all appropriate actions to support the passage of H.R. 793, The Firearm Safety and Buyback Grant Act of 2013.

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